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Remarks

The specification is amended to remove the designation "stem" for reference character 58 which denotes a generally cup-shaped base for the coupler or adapter 56. Reference character 16 denotes a hollow stem. In view of the present amendment to the Specification, an amendment to the drawings is not necessary inasmuch as the potential ambiguity has been obviated.

Claims 2-12, inclusive, are under consideration. Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice in order to expedite the further prosecution of this application. Claim 2 is rewritten in independent form. Moreover, claims 2 and 4-12 are amended to further define the present invention. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendments.

The rejection of claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,039,463 to Lin is not warranted, and is hereby traversed.

The light bulb holder of Lin has an upper end portion with external threads 63. Light bulb holder 6 clearly is not the same as the presently claimed coupler that has a head portion for seating within the lamp shade and a cup that extends between the shade and the base and is unitary with the head portion. Butterfly-shaped nut 5 is not unitary with any other piece of the Lin assembly. Rather, it is threadedly received on the light bulb holder 6. The arrangement of parts shown in Lin is different from that of the presently claimed coupler. The Examiner's statement that "ring (5) is unitary with the stem 96)" is not understood. In the event the Examiner intended to state that the butterfly-shaped nut is unitary with light bulb holder 6, that clearly is not the case because nut 5 is removably attached to the threaded portion 63 of light bulb holder 6.

With respect to claim 8, light bulb locking seat 64 (Lin, col. 2, lines 33-34) is not a cavity adapted to receive a candle as called for by present claim 8. The anticipation rejection of claims 6-9, inclusive, should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 2-5 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Lin in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,890,378 to Godoy is likewise unwarranted, and is traversed as well.

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First of all, the Lin reference is not combinable with the Godoy reference. Lin shows a lamp assembly for use with an electric light bulb whereas Godoy shows a candle holder provided with an upstanding pin that serves as a safety device for extinguishing a candle. One of ordinary skill, when seeking to improve upon the lamp assembly of Lin would not have turned to Godoy's candle holder for guidance. The attempted combination of these two references is clear evidence that this rejection has been assembled by impermissible reliance on applicant's own specification for guidance.

Also, Godoy does not and cannot cure any of the aforementioned deficiencies of Lin as a reference against the present claims.

As recognized by the Examiner, Lin does not disclose a lip for lampshade 3. Godoy does not show a shade 10, nor a circumferential lip 9 therefor in any of the Figures. Godoy only shows a base 10 in Fig. 1; however, that is not relevant to the stated rejection. Clarification is requested. Lin's lampshade 3 clearly cannot be replaced by Godoy's base 10.

It must also be noted that Lin's external lamp cup 4 is not a neck for the base as presently claimed. In addition, nut 5 is not a ring that includes a cup extending through an opening in the shade. As pointed out hereinabove, lamp bulb holder 6 is not unitary with nut 5, thus it cannot be said that nut 5 includes light bulb holder 6. That simply is not the case. The Examiner's characterization of the Lin reference is inaccurate.

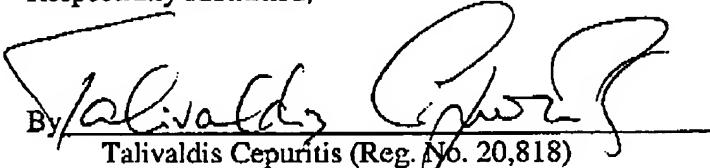
Regarding claims 3 and 11, these claims call for a coupler that includes a threaded screw for securing the coupler to the base of the lamp. Lin does not show or suggest a coupler as presently claimed for reasons advanced hereinabove. Hollow bolt 8 is a stand-alone item, not associated with any other part of Lin's lamp assembly, and merely serves to secure the light bulb holder 6 to lamp pole 2 as described in col. 2, lines 11-21. The entire assembly shown by Lin is for an electric lamp, not for a lamp that holds a candle. The present claims call for a coupler that secures the shade to the base and also includes a threaded screw. Lin neither shows nor suggests such an assembly of parts.

Regarding claims 4, 5, 8 and 12, the light bulb holder 6 of Lin is not a coupler by any stretch of the imagination, and one of ordinary skill would not consider it as such. Recess 61 (col. 2, lines 6-7) does not define a cavity for receiving a candle as called for by the present claims.

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The present amendments to the claims and the accompanying discussion are deemed to dispose of all issues in this case and to place this application in condition for allowance. Early such action is earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

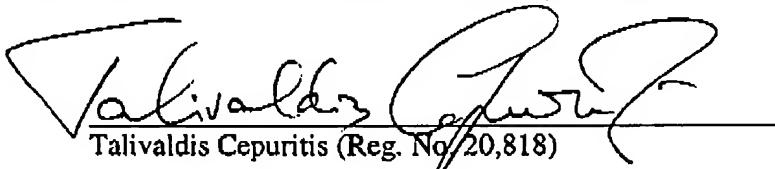
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER RULE 111 is being transmitted by facsimile transmission to Fax No. 571-273-8300 on February 6, 2006.


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